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5. — *The School for Politics. A Dramatic Novel.* By CHARLES GAYARRÉ. New York: Appleton & Co. 1854. 24mo. pp. 158.

MR. GAYARRÉ has already made himself favorably known in literature by his "History of Louisiana," a work which displayed not only fidelity and enthusiasm, but liberal and elegant culture. Whether, since the time of that publication, he has been worsted in some political adventure by a worse man and by foul means, we are unable to say. If this be so, he has avenged himself most gracefully in the book before us. If not, he has entered into a gratuitous championship of political integrity against reigning agencies and systematized modes of corruption. The object of this drama is to illustrate the various ways in which votes are bargained for, opinion manufactured, interest played off against interest, and even friendship and love put up at auction, on the eve of an important election. The picture is hardly overdrawn, though a foreigner might take it for a caricature. Its execution is worthy of the author's reputation; and a very well devised love-plot running through it will make it readable by those who cannot apprehend its political bearing, and have no need of its rebuke.

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6. — *History of Newburyport, from the Earliest Settlement of the Country to the Present Time. With a Biographical Appendix.* By MRS. E. VALE SMITH. Newburyport. 1854. pp. 414.

THE history of one of our little municipalities hardly furnishes sufficient scope for a person of genius, and may perhaps be most successfully executed by one whose mental retina can be subtended by the boundary lines of his native town. The main defect of this book is that it lacks the air that would have been given to it by an author who could conceive of no nobler work. In the biographical sketches, and in other portions of the narrative that possessed intrinsic claims upon her interest, Mrs. Smith has done full justice to her taste and vigor as a writer; but she has been at no pains to dress up insignificant details, or to relieve the dryness of the annals for uneventful periods. Yet even in these parts of her work she has evidently employed all due industry and fidelity, and has omitted no materials of history that could on any account be worth preserving.

7. — *John at Home. A Novel.* By STANLEY HERBERT. London: T. C. Newby. 1853. 3 vols. 24mo. pp. 360, 348, 355.

As a novel, "John at Home" has little merit; and yet we are half inclined to suspect that its leading personages and incidents may have suggested those of Dickens's "Hard Times." In each there is a father preoccupied with the most sordid notions of education and domestic discipline, an almost idiotic mother, a son who, sacrificed by his father's folly, grows up into a profligate and a robber, and a daughter whom the father cannot succeed in spoiling; though in Dickens's story that consummation is nearly realized, while in the other it is averted by an incorruptible nature and a stubbornly judicious aunt. But as a satire, we are disposed to attach a high value to Mr. Herbert's novel. His aim is to expose the debasing influences upon character, home, and society of the money-worship which is the besetting idolatry of a large portion of the middle class among the city population of Great Britain. Cut off by education and position from all nobler aims, it is often the sole endeavor of the English merchant or trader to become the representative of a certain and increasing sum in the market and on 'Change. He cannot, as in this country, with growing wealth, pass with his family under more refining and elevating influences. On the other hand, life becomes for him and them more bleak and desolate as they are relieved from the cares of a lower, without being initiated into the privileges of a more favored, condition. Our author traces out the consequences of this mean ambition with a caustic fidelity not inferior to Thackeray's, though with a power of character-painting not to be compared with his.

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8. — 1. *A Practical Treatise on Musical Composition.* In Three Parts. By GEORG WILHELM RÖHNER, in Association with an English Gentleman. London: Longman, Brown, Green, & Longman. 1854. pp. 678.
2. *Complete Encyclopædia of Music, Elementary, Historical, Biographical, Vocal, and Instrumental.* By JOHN W. MOORE. Boston: John P. Jewett & Co. 1854. 8vo. pp. 1004.

WE have submitted the first of these books to the judgment of an accomplished musician, and are told that it is a more thorough exposition of the recondite laws and higher mysteries of music than any instruction-book now in use in this country, and that it lacks nothing